



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
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Judicial Council to Hold Public Meeting in San Francisco on Friday, February 23

Council to Consider Reports on Judgeship Allocations Funding, Uniform Civil Fees, and Science and the Law

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California will hold a public business meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. on Friday, February 23, 2007, at the Judicial Council Conference Center, Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building, Third Floor, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco.

Chaired by Chief Justice Ronald M. George, the council is the administrative policymaking body of the California courts. The meeting will be audiocast live on the California Courts Web site at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/>.

Among the reports that the Judicial Council will review are the following:

Update of Judicial Workload Study: An update of the 2004 judicial workload assessment, which uses the most recent case filings data to ensure that California trial courts with the greatest need are on the priority list for 100 new judicial officers that the council hopes will be added in the next two years.

Funding for New Trial Court Judgeships: Allocation of funding for the 50 new judgeships created in the Budget Act of 2006.

Uniform Civil Fees: The Task Force on Civil Fees recommends that the council amend the uniform civil fee schedule to clarify specific fees and improve the effectiveness of the fee schedule. The task force also recommends that the Legislature establish a Commission on Civil Fees in the Courts that would meet biannually to consider possible changes in civil fees.

Subordinate Judicial Officers: A recommendation that the council adopt a policy setting forth specific, limited criteria for approving trial court requests for changes in the number of authorized Subordinate Judicial Officer (SJO) positions. The purpose of the policy is to ensure a consistent statewide approach to creating new SJO positions.

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Science and the Law: A recommendation to improve judicial management of issues involving science, technology, and the law. A committee is proposing that the Judicial Council direct 1) the Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) to facilitate an exchange of information between the courts and the science and technology communities to assess emerging issues, resources, and potential partnerships, and 2) standing advisory committees and task forces to monitor the impact of science and technology developments in California courts and identify priorities and recommend effective approaches.

Mediation Week: A resolution that recognizes the third week in March as “Mediation Week,” to coincide with similar recognitions by the Governor and other public agencies. The goal of the week is to encourage courts to implement and improve mediation programs and to promote public awareness and use of such programs.

The council’s complete agenda is online at
<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age022307.pdf>.

The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.

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